



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6200

January Session, 2009

* _____HB06200PH_____032709_____*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LONG-TERM ANTIBIOTICS FOR
THE TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) As used in this section,
2 (1) "long-term antibiotic therapy" means the administration of oral,
3 intramuscular or intravenous antibiotics, singly or in combination, for
4 periods of time in excess of four weeks; and (2) "lyme disease" means
5 the clinical diagnosis by a physician, licensed in accordance with
6 chapter 370 of the general statutes, of the presence in a patient of signs
7 or symptoms compatible with acute infection with borrelia
8 burgdorferi; or with late stage or persistent or chronic infection with
9 borrelia burgdorferi, or with complications related to such an infection;
10 or such other strains of borrelia that, on and after July 1, 2009, are
11 recognized by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
12 as a cause of lyme disease. Lyme disease includes an infection that
13 meets the surveillance criteria set forth by the National Centers for
14 Disease Control and Prevention, and other acute and chronic
15 manifestations of such an infection as determined by a physician,
16 licensed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 370 of the
17 general statutes.
- 18 (b) On and after July 1, 2009, a licensed physician may prescribe,
19 administer or dispense long-term antibiotic therapy to a patient upon

20 making a clinical diagnosis that such patient has Lyme disease or
 21 displays symptoms consistent with a clinical diagnosis of Lyme
 22 disease, provided such clinical diagnosis and treatment are
 23 documented in the patient's medical record by such licensed physician.
 24 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 20-8a and 20-13e of the
 25 general statutes, on and after said date, the Department of Public
 26 Health shall not initiate a disciplinary action against a licensed
 27 physician and such physician shall not be subject to disciplinary action
 28 by the Connecticut Medical Examining Board solely for prescribing,
 29 administering or dispensing long-term antibiotic therapy to a patient
 30 clinically diagnosed with Lyme disease, provided such clinical
 31 diagnosis has been documented in the patient's medical record by such
 32 licensed physician.

33 (c) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Connecticut Medical
 34 Examining Board from taking disciplinary action against a licensed
 35 physician, pursuant to section 19a-17 of the general statutes, or a
 36 consent order entered into pursuant to subsection (c) of section 4-177
 37 of the general statutes. Subject to limitation set forth in subsection (b)
 38 of this section, for purposes of this section, the Connecticut Medical
 39 Examining Board may take disciplinary action against a licensed
 40 physician if there is any violation of the provisions of section 20-13c of
 41 the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2009	New section

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*